of counterfiel currency and its pumping into the country from across the borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) Circulation as well as seizure of fake currency notes have been reported, from time to time, from the border districts of Gujarat, Punjab, UP, Bihar etc. The value of fake currency detected by the Reserve Bank of India and seized by the police during the last three years stood at Rs 14,94,996/-. Denomination-wise details in this regard are given below so far as Rs. 100/- and Rs. 500/- currency notes are concemed:-

Denomination	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Rs. 100/-	2870	2676	5219
Rs. 500/-	67	172	203

In order to combat counterfeiting, various measures have been taken. Currency notes are now printed on specially made cylinder mould vat made paper with additional security features. The Reserve bank of India issues Press releases, from time to time, to enable the public to distinguish between genuine and fake currency notes. The Central Bureau of Investigation has created a special unit for investigation of counterfiel currency notes. The Border Security Force has alerted its forward troops to be more vigilant.

Third Border Wing of Home Guards in Gujarat

*115. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the Gujarat Government's proposal of September, 1993 for creation of third border wing of Home Guards in the State;

(b) if so, the probable time to finalise the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) State Government's request for raising two additional Battalions of Border Wing Home Guards for performing duties for Coastal Security has been accepted by the Govt, of India and the sanction has been issued for the same on 17th Nov. 1997. The State Govt, may raise one Battalion in 1997-98 and the other in 1998-99.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Telecommunication and postal network in Maharashtra

* 116. SHRI GOVINDRAO AD1K: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance of ongoing major development projects during 1996-97 for Maharashtra;

(b) if so, details thereof in terms of targets;

(c) whether Maharashtra Tele communication circles and Postal Authorities have submitted a number of development proposals for upgradation/strengthening/ extension of Telecommunication/Postal Network in the State for 1997-98, details thereof;

(d) the details of action taken or proposed thereon and their present status;

(e) the details of projects lagging behind the schedule and reasons therefor; and

(f) whether postal network need to be expanded substantially in suburban areas of Mumbai and the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Telecom**:** The target of provision of 4,53,000 new telephone connections (DELs) during 1996-97 for Maharashtra (Maharashtra Telecom Circle including Goa, and MTNL, Mumbai) has been fully achieved. To achieve this 5,08,878 lines of switching capacity were added. The details of major projects commissioned during 1996-97 are given in Annexure. *[See Appendix 182, Annexure No. 14]*

Postal: (i) the details are given in Annexure-

(c) Yes, Sir.

Telecom: Maharashtra Telecom circle has planned to provide 2.25.000 new telephone connections (DELs) during 1997-98. The

details of important projects proposed to be commissioned to achieve the target are given in Annexure. *[See Appendix 182, Annexure No. 14]*

Postal**:** There is a target for opening 3 Departmental sub-post Offices and 35 extra Departmental Branch Post Offices during the Annual Plan 1997-98 subject to availability of resources. The details of developmental projects are given in Annexure in respect of opening of Post Offices and in respect of Building Projects.

(d) and (e)

Telecom: The proposed development projects for 1997-98 are expected to be executed as planned and their present status is given in *Annexure-[See Appendix 182, Annexure No. 14]*

Postal: (i) Building Projects:- The details of proposals submitted by Maharashtra Circle have been prioritised and are under various stages of examination. The status of ongoing Projects with reasons for delay is given in Annexure-[See *Appendix 182, Annexure No. 14]*

(ii) Opening of Post Offices: The details of proposals for opening of Post Offices submitted by Maharashtra Circle alongwith action taken/present position are given in Annexure *[See Appendix 182, Annexure No. 14]* The reasons for non-sanctioning is that the power to create posts does not vest with the Departments, as a result of which the cases have been taken up with the Ministry of Finance. No approval has so far been received from them.

(f) Yes, Sir, A target for opening of 38 Post Offices has been fixed for Maharashtra Circle which would include those to be opened in the Suburban areas of Mumbai subject to availability of resources. Moreover, certain proposals have been received from Maharashtra Circle for Building Projects and are under various stages of examination.

Roads in North-Eastern Region

* 117. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering introduction of Build-Operate-Transfer scheme for development of roads in North-Eastern region in general and Assam in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) Private investments in the development of National Highways under the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) scheme is in operation throughout the country, including the North-Eastern region. However, no such proposal has come up for consideration in the North-Eastern region, including the State of Assam.

Recruitment Policy in Department of Posts

*118. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Postal Department has no uniform recruitment policy, instead the department had been having a fluctuating recruitment policy for the past several decades; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the action taken by his Ministry to bring a uniform recruitment policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Water Transport Facilities along Mumbai's Coastal Line

* 119. SHRIMATI **MALTI** SHARMA:

PROF. RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the State Government of Maharashtra is making elaborate plans for developing water transport facilities along the Mumbai's coastal line for carrying passengers as well as cargo;

(b) whether the State Government has approached the Union Government for any assistance for the said project; and

(c) if so, the nature of assistance asked for and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN):